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WASHINGTON — Donald Nixon, the President's likeable, loquacious, wheeler-dealer brother, got a $100,000 personal loan from a California builder at a time when the builder was seeking federal business.

This is the second substantial loan which Donald Nixon has wangled from government contractors. In late 1956, while his brother was Vice President, Donald secured a $205,000 loan from billionaire defense contractor Howard Hughes.

Our disclosure of the Hughes loan became a major issue in Richard Nixon's defeats for president in 1960 and governor of California in 1962.

Now we have learned that Donald received a $100,000 check, dated August 4, 1971, from Lloyd Hallamore, then president of Hallamore Homes, Inc.

Securities and Exchange Commission records show that in July 1971, Donald was also appointed a director of a closely affiliated Hallamore firm, San-Bar Electronics Corp.

My associate, George Clifford, infiltrated a Hallamore meeting in July 1971 and heard Donald Nixon boast of his efforts to get contracts to build Hallamore homes.

The firm wound up a few months later with a $4,271,000 subcontract to construct modular homes at 18 Air Force bases. But the firm's president, Harold Anderson, who is also Lloyd Hallamore's son-in-law, denied that Don Nixon had anything to do with arranging the Air Force contract.

Reluctantly conceding that a $100,000 personal loan had been made, Anderson insisted to us: "The loan had absolutely nothing to do with the operation of Hallamore, Inc." The $100,000, he also swore, has been repaid.

Meanwhile, we have discovered that President Nixon's former aide, John Ehrlichman, personally checked on the Hallamore firm because of Don Nixon's investment. Ehrlichman traveled with presidential pal Bebe Rebozo to make a quiet survey of the Hallamore operations in California at about the time Don Nixon got the loan.

We wrote about Don's dealings with the Hallamores but never learned until now about the $100,000 loan. Its exact purpose still remains a mystery.

FOOTNOTE: Don Nixon and Lloyd Hallamore could not be reached for comment.

SECRET STRATEGY: The environmental laws will be suspended to permit the development of any project related to "energy or its uses" if President Nixon's secret strategy is successful.

This would mean atomic plant construction, offshore oil drilling and shale and strip mining could be pursued without any safeguards or public recourse.

The strategy to undermine environmental laws in the name of the energy crisis is being plotted behind closed doors in the byzantine old Executive Office Building next to the White House. We have gone behind those doors to get the story.

At the latest session, deputy budget chief Frank Zarb presided. He outlined five options for the group to discuss, including a proposal from the President that the National Environmental Policy Act be suspended for projects relating to energy.

Russell Peterson, head of the Council on Environmental Quality, broke in to demand why they needed to discuss the options at all. When, he demanded, had environmental concerns ever stopped an important energy project? No one could come up with a single example.

Clearing his throat, Undersecretary of the Interior John Whitaker, a former oil executive, suggested that instead of suspending the environmental act that they move merely to change the environmental guidelines. This would produce the same result with less uproar.

White House aide Richard Fairbanks interrupted with a loud complaint about "environmental kooks." He snorted: "When the lights go out, people don't give a damn about the environment."

Yet Fairbanks, incredibly, is President Nixon's top aide for environmental affairs.

The Federal Energy Office's representative, Eric Zausner, who came in late, was asked by Zarb what FEO thought about suspending the environmental act. At his bureaucratic best, Zausner said his agency needed a week or so to think it over.

Zarb quickly closed the meeting, saying that because FEO needed more time to mull over the problem, they would meet again on March 13th.

FOOTNOTE: Fairbanks told us his remark about the lights going out was taken from a two-year-old statement by Interior Secretary Rogers Morton. Fairbanks raised it again, he said, because of his concern about an "emotional reaction" against environmentalism if things get too bad, "a la gas lines." Whitaker did not return our calls.